

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:THGERTH/RN
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
L/C:MR. WONG

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P 031951Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 112742

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION CLAIM OF RICHARD STEIN ESTATE

REF: WILGIS-GERTH O-I MARCH 25, 1978

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION (REF.)
ATTORNEY SAMUEL HERMAN, WHO REPRESENTS STEIN ESTATE
WROTE TO AKAR OF FINANCE MINISTRY ON APRIL 5, SEEKING
FAVORABLE GOH RESPONSE TO THE STEIN CLAIM FOR NATIONALI-
ZATION OF A CORPORATION IN HUNGARY OF WHICH STEIN WAS
THE SOLE OWNER. HERMAN ASSERTS THIS IS A JUST CLAIM
WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ANNEX D OF THE 1973 CLAIMS SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT. IN RESPONSE TO A PREVIOUS REQUEST BY HERMAN
IN 1975 THE PENZINTEZETI KOZPONT STATED "UNDER HUNGARIAN
RULES, THERE IS, FOR THE TIME BEING, NO POSSIBILITY OF EN-
FORCING ANY CLAIM ON THE NATIONALIZED UNDERTAKINGS."

2. HERMAN HAS TO DATE RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM AKAR. IN
HIS LETTER TO AKAR, HERMAN NOTED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST
IN THE STEIN CLAIM IN THE CONTEXT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 112742

TRADE AGREEMENT. HERMAN NOW PROPOSES TO TESTIFY AT
RIBICOFF SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS MAY 9 IN OPPOSITION TO THE
TRADE AGREEMENT, BASED ON GOH UNWILLINGNESS TO SETTLE THE
STEIN CLAIM.

3. WHILE USG IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ESPOUSE THE STEIN
CLAIM, WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO USE OUR

GOOD OFFICES AND APPROACH AKAR INFORMALLY TO DETERMINE
WHETHER AND HOW HE INTENDS TO REPLY TO HERMAN. VANCE

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